

CLAIMS

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1. A method of reducing the vapour pressure (RVP) of a gasoline/alcohol mixture which comprises adding surfactant composition an alkanolamide, an alkoxylated alcohol and an alkoxylated fatty acid, or an ester thereof, to a gasoline/alcohol mixture wherein the vapour pressure is less than 0.48 atmospheres.

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2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the vapour pressure (RVP) is between 0.41 and 0.48 atmospheres.

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3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the alkanolamide is a diethanolamide.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the nitrogen in the diethanolamide is substituted by an alkyl C₅ to C₂₀ substituent.

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5. A method according to claim 3, wherein the diethanolamide is a lauryl diethanolamide.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the alkoxylated alcohol is an ethoxylated alcohol.

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7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the ethoxylated alcohol is a C₅ to C₁₅ alkanol.

8. A method according to claim 6, wherein the ethoxylated alcohol comprises a mixture of alkanols in which one alkanol predominates.

9. A method according to claim 6, wherein the predominant alkanol is a C₉ to C₁₁ alkanol.

10 10 A method according to claim 6, wherein the ethoxylate to alcohol ratio is 15 from between 1 and 5.

11. A method according to claim 6, wherein the ethoxylated alcohol is NEODOL 91/2.5.

20 12. A method according to claim 1, wherein in that the fatty acid group is a C₈ to C₂₀ fatty acid.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the fatty acid group is a C₁₄ fatty acid (myristic acid).

25 14. A method according to claim 1, characterised in that the ester moiety of

5 the fatty acid ester is an alkyl ester.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the alkyl group is a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl.

10 16. A method according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises 25v/v of the fatty acid ester.

17. A method according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises 50% v/v of the alcohol ethoxylate.

15 18. A method according to claim 1, wherein the surfactant additive to fuel/alcohol ratio is from 0.5:1200 to 1:1000.

19. The use of a surfactant composition comprising an alkanolamide, an
20 alkoxylated alcohol and an alkoxylated fatty acid ester in the manufacture of a gasoline/alcohol fuel composition having a vapour pressure (RVP) of less than 0.48 atmospheres.

20. A method of manufacturing a mixture comprising gasoline, alcohol and a surfactant composition, said surfactant composition comprising an alkanolamide, an ethoxylated alcohol and alkoxylated fatty acid, wherein the method includes the steps of blending the alcohol and surfactant followed by blending with gasoline.